



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC WOMAN SENTENCED FOR IDENTITY THEFT

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., woman was sentenced in federal court today for using stolen lists of names and Social Security numbers to purchase Wal-Mart gift cards.

Delana K. Pickens, 32, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to two years and six months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Pickens** to pay \$167,865 in restitution.

On May 28, 2004, **Pickens** pleaded guilty to two counts of identity theft. **Pickens** admitted that she stole 10 pages of personal identification information from her former employer, Caremark, a Lee's Summit business, where she trained people to work as customer service representatives. On Oct. 21, 2002, **Pickens** distributed those names and Social Security numbers to another person. The list, Graves said, included dozens of customers whose information was on file at Caremark. Neither Caremark nor those customers authorized the transfer of that information.

Pickens gave the information to another person, Graves explained, knowing that it would be used to illegally obtain instant credit accounts at Wal-Mart stores.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Cowles. It was investigated by the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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